Ashley Mellor

Methods Trial #2 – Survey Monkey

For my second methods trial I used Survey Monkey. We were trying to implement an easier way to award our scholarships to students. Typically we get into a huge meeting with approximately 25 people and hash out who is getting what scholarship. Well this normally takes an entire day and ends with a lot of hurt feeling and arguments. So, we wanted them to take a survey to rank what criteria were the most important to them. It took us 4 tries to get this survey ready to go out to the entire group. We started by doing questions to about 5 people to make sure they were easy to understand, that they knew what they needed to be doing and just to make sure there were no questions that we needed to iron out before this went out to everyone. We also included a question to divide the group up so that we could manipulate the data into the groups that we wanted them in instead of having to send out multiple surveys to groups of people.

The good; this was very helpful in getting the information out there, giving them so many days to complete and getting the data back quickly. The data was all put into a graph and the “votes” were tallied for us, giving us a clean ranking system. The bad; because we did not originally pay for this service we weren’t able to export or manipulate the data between groups in a nice easy format. We instead had to take individual people’s answers and type them into excel to work with them to get the scoring for each group.

Overall we really liked it and we will be purchasing one of the packages. We liked being able to survey easily and get information back quickly. Being able to work and maneuver the data easier is worth the cost for our purposes and with the amount of time we plan on using it.